

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 /105 W

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R 071510Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5704

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

UNCLAS CAIRO 7797

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJ: SADAT PRESS CONFERENCE

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS FROM PRESIDENT SADAT'S AUG 6 PRESS CONFERENCE IN ALEXANDRIA WITH MEXICAN JOURNALISTS ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AS CARRIED IN CAIRO PRESS AUG 7.

A. ME SITUATION. EGYPT IS ALERT TO ANY EVENTUALITY SINCE ME SITUATION IS NOW "EXPLOSIVE." GOE CONTINUE DEMAND ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM WEST BANK AND GAZA AS WELL AS ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE. ASKED IF ARAB-ISRAELI COEXISTENCE IS POSSIBLE, SADAT GAVE HIS USUAL ANSWER, I.E., PROBLEM IS COMPLICATED AND ROOTED IN PAST. COEXISTENCE CANNOT COME OVERNIGHT. "AS I DECLARED IN 1971...AND 1973 AND AS I KEEP ANNOUNCING, WE ARE PREPARED FOR PEACE AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH ISRAEL WITHDRAWS TOTALLY AND BELLIGERENCY...IS TERMINATED UNQTE. FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TASK OF COMING GENERATIONS.

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B. USSR. IN VEILED REFERENCE TO USSR, SADAT SAID MANY BENEFIT FROM

CURRENT STATE OF QTE RESTIVENESS UNQTE. THOSE WHO DO NOT WANT
PEACE IN WORLD AND THOSE WHO WOULD ESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN ME
ARE KNOWN TO ALL.

C. REJECTION FRONT. EVEN BROTHERS CANNOT AGREE ON EVERYTHING,
BUT WE NOW USE OUR MINDS NOT OUR EMOTIONS. RE PALESTINE, PRES
SAID STRATEGY IS THE SAME, THE TACTICS DIFFER.

D. USG ROLE. IN REPLY TO QUESTION ABOUT USG PEACE EFFORTS,
SADAT LAUDED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EFFORTS WHICH QTE REPRESENT
FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN US APPROACH UNQTE. SECRETARY HAS RESTORED
OUR TRUST IN US AND HAS NEVER RENEGED ON HIS WORD. QTE I
TRUST HIM UNQTE.

2. COMMENT: SADAT'S WORDS OF PRAISE FOR THE SECRETARY WERE
PARTICULARLY WARM. EGYPTIANS TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN ARE
IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT'S UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENT OF CONFIDENCE
IN USG AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE AND POINT OUT THAT HIS REMARKS
REPRESENT CONSIDERABLE ACT OF COURAGE.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO07797
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750273-0240
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750871/aaaackmo.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <09 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SADAT PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, EG, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006